

REMARKS

Claims 34-39 are pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, no claims have been cancelled, amended nor added. Accordingly, claims 34-39 are still currently under consideration.

Double Patenting Rejection of Claims

A. Claims 34-39 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 106 and 120-122 of U.S. Patent No. 6,593,292. In response, Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer over U.S. 6,593,292, which obviates this rejection, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Claim 38 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claims 1 and 4-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,730,293. In response, Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer over U.S. 6,730,293, which obviates this rejection, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

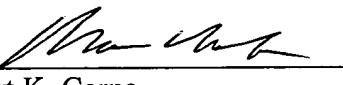
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket No. 578562001600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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